

Data Sheet

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| USAID Mission: | ANE Regional |
| Program Title: | South Asia Regional Democracy |
| Pillar: | Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance |
| Strategic Objective: | 498-037 |
| Status: | Continuing |
| Proposed FY 2003 Obligation: | \$922,000 DA; \$2,000,000 ESF |
| Prior Year Unobligated: | \$0 |
| Proposed FY 2004 Obligation: | \$3,570,000 DA; \$2,000,000 ESF |
| Year of Initial Obligation: | FY 2002 |
| Estimated Completion Date: | FY 2005 |

Summary: Compared to men, South Asian women generally have significantly less access to and control over productive assets, employment and training opportunities, basic social services, and information and decision-making at home and in their community. Discrimination against women remains entrenched in South Asia. While the region is rich with government and NGO programs promoting women's empowerment and protecting victims of rights abuses, the scale and scope of many efforts remain limited. USAID and the Department of State seek to reduce these inequalities with a particular emphasis on the needs of higher-risk groups, e.g., trafficked women and children, victims of domestic violence, landless women, poor women without access to credit, out-of-school children, and adolescents with minimal levels of education.

The South Asia Regional Democracy Program includes the USAID managed SARI/Equity program (\$3,570,000 DA) and various State Department-led initiatives (\$2,000,000 ESF) that support and catalyze South Asian-led efforts to (1) address human rights concerns that arise from women's and children's unequal status and that contribute to perpetuating it, and (2) promote opportunities for disadvantaged groups (especially women and children) to participate equitably in society. SARI/Equity addresses human rights and social and economic participation issues that come under two categories, i.e., transnational concerns like trafficking and national issues such as child labor, domestic violence and human rights violations. Whether transnational or national in nature or scope, there is remarkable commonality across these countries regarding the factors that contribute to these inequities, as well as commonality regarding how donors like USAID work with governments and NGOs to address these concerns.

The South Asia Regional Democracy program promotes South Asian-led efforts (governmental and NGO) to support innovative and responsive programming on equity concerns. Working closely with bilateral USAID missions, the program: (1) fosters better sharing of lessons learned and exposes countries to unique approaches their neighbors have adopted to address similar problems; (2) funds cutting-edge research to better inform advocacy efforts and to design sound responses; (3) supports establishing or strengthening of national and regional coalitions to undertake concerted, well-focused advocacy and information sharing campaigns; and (4) seeks to improve the quality of data collection on these issues as well as increase the level of understanding about these equity concerns within the region.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

In FY 2003, the program will finance an assessment on the trafficking of adults and possibly child soldiers from Sri Lanka. New activities in Nepal and India will support the development of information materials and expand the base of sustainable microfinance services available to poor and land- and asset-less women. The program will also support the development and exchange of information and lessons learned among women and human rights advocacy groups to promote improved policies, laws and regulations. State Department-led initiatives will continue to support national anti-trafficking efforts.

FY 2004 Program:

In FY 2004, the SARI/Equity and State-led programs are expected to provide assistance in the following areas:

- support local NGO efforts to develop public messages and information that highlights human rights abuses, especially against women and children;
- support for job skills training to women vulnerable to trafficking, violence, and other forms of human rights abuses;
- support workshops for parliamentarians and senior government officials on the social and economic impact of trafficking, child labor, and violence against women and children in South Asia; and
- support the strengthening of regional coalitions and networks that will advocate for changes in national policies and laws, and the formulation of regional conventions based on international standards for human rights.

Performance and Results: With support from USAID, successful anti-trafficking, child labor and violence against women activities in South Asia include:

The Regional anti-trafficking program, with UNIFEM as the implementing partner. This program supported cross-cutting research studies in India and Nepal to evaluate the existing legal framework and institutional mechanisms to control trafficking, and to assess the trafficking situation and map vulnerable regions. The studies found poverty and domestic violence as two critical contributing factors, which make women vulnerable to trafficking. The program established an anti-trafficking regional resource center at the regional UNIFEM office in New Delhi, along with national resource centers in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. This program supported transition schools for prevention of second generation trafficking in India, established a regional network of NGOs (Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children/ATSEC), and developed print and visual media to raise public awareness. Resource materials, e.g., four training films, are being produced to sensitize a variety of stakeholders on cross-border trafficking.

UNIFEM also supported the organization of community awareness programs on trafficking on the Indo-Nepal border. More than 7,000 community members in hot-spot locations participated in programs to foster community vigilance. The regional program addresses the growing need for mental health services for survivors of trafficking. In Sri Lanka, 15 persons were trained to provide counseling therapy for child survivors. UNIFEM partners developed a regional trauma-counseling module and different NGOs offered counselor training in each country. In India, UNIFEM supported STOP, an NGO working in New Delhi, to rescue 183 women and children from Delhi brothels and to repatriate fifty victims. Three traffickers were convicted as a result of these rescues.

In Sri Lanka, UNIFEM funded a public information campaign through the American Center for International Labor Solidarity to raise awareness of trafficking and to assess the public's recognition of the issue. This prompted other agencies, e.g., Migrant Services Center, to sensitize prospective migrant workers about trafficking. UNIFEM supported Sri Lanka's National Child Protection Authority's production of a set of "info-mercials" on trafficking.

Indian NGOs, through UNDP and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), worked to prevent and eliminate child labor through quality education efforts. CRS' activity ended in September 2002, having succeeded in reaching about 62,000 out-of-school children in three states with alternative equivalency education. The UNDP activity in this area reached about 13,000 children in four states.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

ANE Regional

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|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 498-037 South Asia Regional Democracy | DA | ESF |
| Through September 30, 2001 | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 0 |
| Unliquidated | 0 | 0 |
| Fiscal Year 2002 | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 5,586 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 984 |
| Through September 30, 2002 | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 5,586 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 984 |
| Unliquidated | 0 | 4,602 |
| Prior Year Unobligated Funds | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA | | |
| Obligations | 922 | 2,000 |
| Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003 | | |
| Obligations | 922 | 2,000 |
| Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA | | |
| Obligations | 3,570 | 2,000 |
| Future Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Est. Total Cost | 4,492 | 9,586 |